

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16-18, 20-32, and 34-43 are pending in the present application as currently amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12-15 have been newly canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16, 18, 20-22, 24-30, 32, 34-36, and 38-43 under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Bossemeyer, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,444). Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Independent claim 16 recites a system for notifying a computing device of an incoming message. In the system, a message server is coupled to a data communications network for receiving the incoming message, a public communications system is coupled to the message server, where the message server securely communicates to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device, and a communications line is coupled to the communications system and to the computing device, where the communications system signals the computing device over the communications line that the incoming message awaits retrieval by such computing device. Significantly, the incoming message includes a destination address associated with the computing device (an email address, e.g.), the communications line is identified by an identifier (a telephone number, e.g.), and the system further comprises a database associating the destination address with the identifier. Thus, *the message server* accesses the database and determines the identifier based on the destination address and communicates to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device at the communications line as identified by the identifier.

Independent claim 30 recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 16, albeit in the form of a method.

The Bossemeyer reference discloses an email notification system whereby a telecommunications network 60 periodically inquires of a data message platform 40 whether email waits to be delivered from the platform 40 by way of the network 60 to a subscriber terminal 80 coupled to the network 60. As was pointed out by the Examiner, the Bossemeyer reference discloses a method at column 3, line 57, through column 4, line 8 whereby the network 60 checks with the platform 40 to determine whether email for a particular subscriber 80 is available for retrieval. As disclosed, in the method, the network 60 retrieves a subscriber message (email) address from a subscriber database 230 (Fig. 2) for the subscriber 80, based on the telephone number of the subscriber 80 (step 130, Fig. 5), and the network 60 queries the platform 40 to see if messages are waiting for the subscriber 80 by transmitting a status request signal from the network 60 to the platform 40 with the email address for the subscriber 80 (step 132). In response the platform 40 determines if messages are waiting for the subscriber 80 and transmits relevant information back to the network 60 (step 104).

Thus, the Bossemeyer reference discloses checking for email by way of a telecommunications network 60 checking a database 230 thereof for an email address and then querying a email platform 40 based on such email address. Importantly, the Bossemeyer reference does not disclose that the platform 40 (i.e., message server) checks such a database 230 to determine a phone number corresponding to an email address, as is required by claims 16 and 30. Instead, in the Bossemeyer reference, the opposite is disclosed in that the network

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0023/99213
Application No.: 09/736,631
Office Action Dated: January 14, 2004

PATENT

60 (i.e., communications system) checks such a database 230 to determine an email address corresponding to a phone number.

Accordingly, because the Bossemeyer platform 40 and not the Bossemeyer system 60 checks the Bossemeyer database 230, Applicants respectfully submit that the Bossemeyer reference does not anticipate claims 16 or 30 or any claims depending therefrom, including claims 18, 20-22, 24-29, 32, 34-36, and 38-43

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 17, 23, 31, and 37 under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the Bossemeyer reference in view of Duphorne (U.S. Patent No. 6,212, 265). Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 103 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

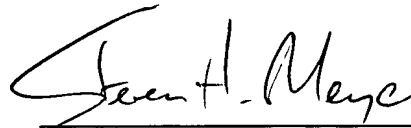
Applicants respectfully submit that since independent claims 16 and 30 have been shown to be unanticipated and are non-obvious, then so too must all claims depending therefrom be unanticipated and non-obvious, including claims 17, 23, 31, and 37, at least by their dependencies. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0023/99213
Application No.: 09/736,631
Office Action Dated: January 14, 2004

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Date: April 14, 2004



Steven H. Meyer
Registration No. 37,189

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439